

## Prayer Rugs 17C



Although the design on each rug is very different as they come from different locations, they all have that Mirab niche as part of the design. A mirab is a niche that indicates the Quibla wall (prayer direction) in a Mosque. This rug has a box over the Mirab containing the date 1217 – remember that is in Hijra and relates to 1878 AD. It also has a water vessel which is perhaps a symbol of the ritual ablution required before prayer. Before entering a mosque there is a fountain in the courtyard outside where people perform a ritual wash to clean themselves before prayer.

Many of these rugs survive in the Balkans as they would be bought on pilgrimage to Mecca, blessed, then given to a mosque on the return journey.

Prayer rugs usually made by women for sale. They are much bigger than modern prayer rugs.

They were often copied from Turkish Royal rugs